

Remarks

Claims 1, 2 and 4-35 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, and 4-35 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Schrenk (US 4,910,707) in view of Berger et al. (US 5,225,706), hereafter "Berger," and Hayami et al. (US 6,426,495), hereafter "Hayami." This rejection is defective because Schrenk, Berger, and Hayami, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach each and every feature of the claims as required by 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

It should be noted that although the Examiner states that claims 1, 2 and 4-35 are rejected based on a combination of the references to Schrenk, Berger, and Hayami, the reference of Berger is not used in the rejection of independent claims 1 and 25. Clarification of this inconsistency is requested.

Claim 1 recites:

"A circuit arrangement for protecting a chip arrangement, comprising:

at least one optosensitive detector unit, comprising at least one bipolar transistor, whose output voltage is a measure of the incidence of light on the detector unit, and

at least one comparator unit preceded by the detector unit for comparing the output voltage of the detector unit with a reference voltage, wherein data or functions of the chip arrangement to be protected can be permanently obstructed, erased, blocked, or interrupted in the case of a failure message occurring during comparison of the output voltage of the detector unit

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with the reference voltage.”

Schrenk fails to teach or suggest many features set forth in independent claim 1 (and corresponding independent method claim 25). For example, Schrenk does not teach or suggest the claimed “comparator unit ... for comparing the output voltage of the detector unit with a reference voltage.” In the above-referenced Office Action, the Examiner agrees that Schrenk fails to teach or suggest this feature. To overcome this glaring deficiency of Schrenk, the Examiner relies on the teachings of Hayami. In particular, the Examiner states that “Hayami et al. discloses a comparator unit provided for comparing the output voltage of the detector unit with an adjustable reference voltage which then generates a failure message when the output voltage deviates from the nominal range (col. 17 lines 26-35).” The Examiner attempts to justify this position by alleging that “it would have been obvious ... to add the comparator unit disclosed by Hayami et al. to the detector unit disclosed by Schrenk in order to improve the reaction time of the detector unit to protect the data by blocking or short circuit.” Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s analysis of Hayami and conclusion of obviousness.

The detector unit of Schenk comprises a photodiode 8. It is inconceivable that a reaction time of the photodiode 8 would be improved by incorporating the temperature compensating circuit of Hayami into Schenk’s circuit as alleged by the Examiner. As such, there is absolutely no motivation to combine Hayami and Schenk in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

Schenk also fails to teach or suggest that the “data or functions of the chip arrangement to be protected can be **permanently** obstructed, erased, blocked, or interrupted in the case of a failure message occurring during comparison of the output voltage of the detector unit with the


reference voltage," as set forth in claim 1. Rather, Schenk provides for the temporary blocking of the column lines 2 of a storage cell upon the incidence of radiation (see, e.g., col. 2, lines 13-15).

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-2 and 4-35 are allowable because Schrenk, Berger, and Hayami, taken alone or in any combination, fail to teach each and every feature of the claims as required by 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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